

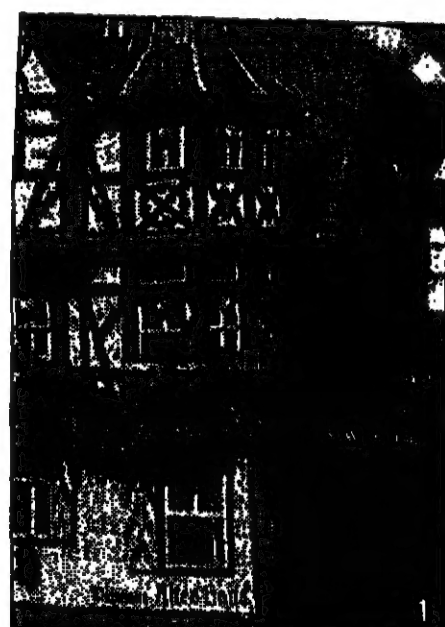
# Routes to tour in Germany

## The Rheingold Route

German roads will get you there — to the Rhine, say, where it flows deep in the valley and is at its most beautiful. Castles perched on top of what, at times, are steep cliffs are a reminder that even in the Middle Ages the Rhine was of great importance as a waterway. To this day barges chug up and down the river with their cargoes. For those who are in more of a hurry the going is faster on the autobahn that runs alongside the river. But from Koblenz to

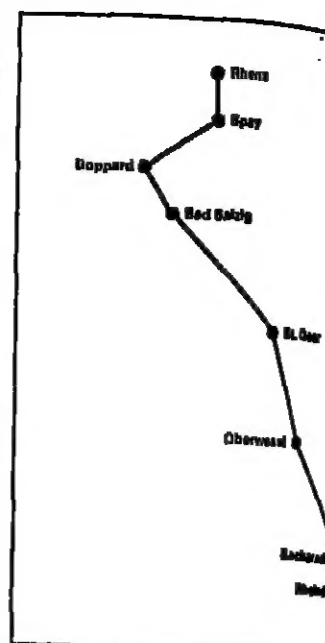
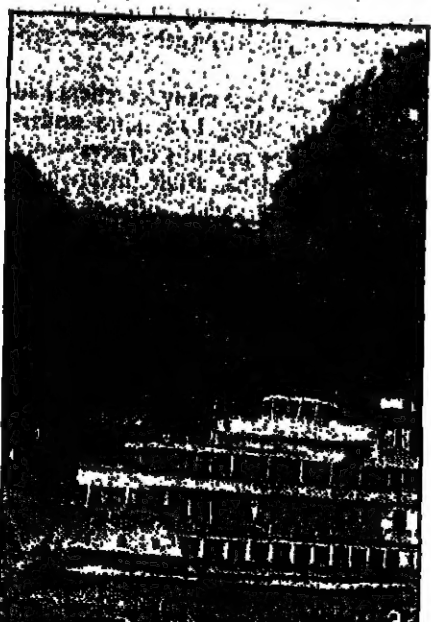
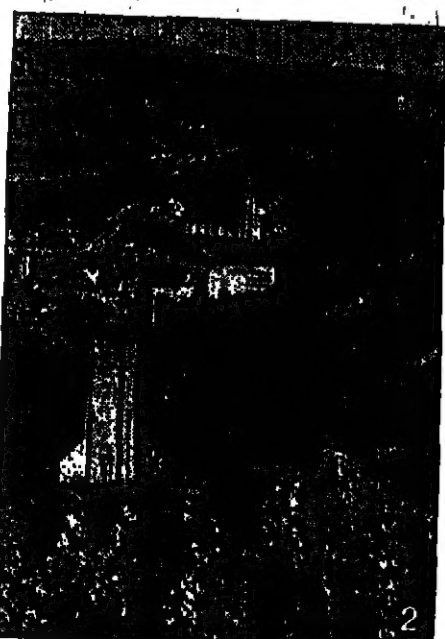
Bingen you must take the Rheingold Route along the left bank and see twice as much of the landscape. Take the chairlift in Boppard and enjoy an even better view. Stay the night at Rheinfels Castle in St Goar with its view of the Loreley Rock on the other side. And stroll round the romantic wine village of Bacharach.

Visit Germany and let the Rheingold Route be your guide.



- 1 Bacharach
- 2 Oberwesel
- 3 The Loreley Rock
- 4 Boppard
- 5 Stolzenfels Castle

**DZT** DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV.  
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# The German Tribune

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## Major Bonn policy aim to reduce East-West tension

Reducing East-West tension is one of the main aims of Bonn's foreign policy, Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the Bundestag in a major policy speech. He underlined the security needs of all nations including the Soviet Union but said that nothing justified "the overreaction" of the Soviet Union. He did not mention the East Berlin cancellation of the Honecker visit to Bonn, and did not respond to CSU calls for a tougher line against East Berlin. He confirmed the principle of a single German citizenship. Bonn policy would continue to be based on the European Treaties. Top priority domestically was the battle against inflation. He announced that the social security system would be overhauled so that there would be tax changes to encourage investment. He wants tougher measures to protect the environment. Chancellor Kohl called for a general "moral renewal" and said that the coalition believed in old-fashioned values.

The most striking thing about Chancellor Helmut Kohl's policy speech was its confidence.

The repeated calls for united efforts in tackling existing problems and the proposed, self-confident elucidation of the new government's intentions provided a welcome alternative to the mood of catastrophe spreading within a minority of the population.

The remark made towards the end of the declaration that "the gateway to the future stands open" was greeted with a burst of laughter from the opposition. It certainly was a naive-sounding remark in view of the varied problems of the Federal Republic.

Yet Kohl wasn't just out to inspire confidence.

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Chancellor Kohl did not allow his government policy declaration to be merely a list of things he wants.

Most of his colleagues should be expected with the emphasis he placed on social issues. Economic and social issues received the main attention.

The Chancellor emphasised in this respect that the government is committed to less involvement and to the encouragement of individual responsibility, solidarity and greater social freedom.

In line with this, he referred to the reform of the social market economy. He stressed how the government could do the better of the economic crisis and pointed out that there was a long way to go.

He made no reference to a the recent disputes within the coalition. When he spoke about the reasons for the disputes

the confidence of the population in general or the business world in particular.

It's part of his nature to be confident and see the silver lining behind dark clouds.

Never would he be heard uttering the saying commonly used by Konrad Adenauer that "the situation has never been so serious".

For Kohl, there's still hope even in the most difficult situation.

Who knows — perhaps he is in this respect just the kind of Chancellor the West Germans have been looking for after the years of depressed feelings.

There are certain problems in politics which can only then be really dealt with successfully if they are tackled with a certain amount of naïveté and a firm belief that they can be solved.

In this respect, Kohl has greater similarity to Ludwig Erhard than to Konrad Adenauer, and the reaction of the parties in government to Kohl's speech was marked by an almost relieved gratitude for the promises made by the Chancellor of a better future.

No-one can say after hearing the declaration whether these promises will be realised.

Kohl did not go into the specific details of such promises; some parts of his speech sounded as if he'd deleted those

## Kohl's priority economic, social issues

— that is the conflict in the relationship between the two German states — he phrased his words in such a way that support was drawn from all parts of the coalition.

Limited continuity is the operative expression here. He said that agreements with East Berlin would be developed further but that there must be a balance of give and take.

In referring to the East Bloc, Chancellor Kohl tended to use the phrase "reduction in tension" rather than détente.

The Opposition leader, Hans-Jochen



What the nation can expect... Chancellor Kohl during his Bundestag policy speech. (Photo: dpu)

## Speech makes it a real family affair

Helmut Kohl's second government policy speech had no poisonous sting, neither on domestic nor foreign policy.

This does not, however, mean that there was no substance in what he said.

The Chancellor certainly marked out a framework for the much promised "change".

The government will be making full use of market economy means to set about solving problems, whether in the fields of economic, financial or social policies.

Market-economy here stands for rewarding achievement and restricting state assistance and intervention.

The government doesn't want to see this misinterpreted as the inevitable result of financial bottlenecks.

There is a principle of a regulating policy behind this approach.

It's all part of what Helmut Kohl ambitiously refers to as the spiritual renewal.

This consists among other things of the conviction that the society is as healthy as the sum of its smallest cells, i.e. its families.

Kohl is hoping that the family as an institution will provide added momentum for the humanisation of industrial society.

In his opinion there is no alternative to the family and yet alternatives within it.

The status of the woman and mother should receive greater respect. Kohl also promised more assistance in matters relating to taxation and insurance.

And yet all this is nothing new, at most confirmation of what Kohl has already said since he was first elected.

Continued on page 3

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 May 1983)







## ■ INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

## Laying blame for Honecker's cancelled visit: air thick with accusations

Accusations are flying thick and fast in Bonn: just whose fault is it exactly that Honecker's visit to the Federal Republic has been called off?

The choices (in barrier position) are: Honecker himself, the hawks in the GDR politburo, the Soviet Union, the hawks in the CDU/CSU, the West German press, Franz Josef Strauss, the Warsaw Pact and (only an outsider) Chancellor Kohl.

Honecker's decision to remain in East Berlin has certainly achieved some things: relations between the German states have hit a low point and tension over *Deutschlandpolitik* between the various factions in Bonn has increased.

Chancellor Kohl found out about the decision during his visit to Italy. His deputy, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, heard about it in the news.

Jürgen Möllemann, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and Berndt von Staden, a State Secretary, found out in the morning newspapers.

The Foreign Office could only shake its head at the apparent lack of communication between itself and the Federal Chancellery.

### Explanations differ

Explanations about the decision itself differ depending on who you talk to, foreign policy politicians or intra-German affairs politicians.

The former are used to thinking in more global terms. They see the more important conflicts between the superpowers as the real reasons for Honecker's action a plausible explanation.

The Soviet Union can certainly have no interest in seeing Honecker visit the

Federal Republic in autumn, when Bonn and its Allies will be setting up nuclear medium-range missiles aimed at the Eastern bloc.

If this interpretation is correct, it would mean that the efforts by both German governments to keep the East-West conflict out of German-German relations has failed.

Other politicians have more basic explanations to offer. Egon Bahr, for example, points out the aggravation of the political mood of hysteria, with Franz Josef Strauss doing most of the aggravating.

Möller, who usually doesn't restrain himself too much when criticising Strauss, regards the "nonsense in Munich" as a merely "regional disruptive action".

This alone cannot have been the main reason, as the Federal government itself had behaved fairly.

Bahr does not agree. Although Kohl could not be accused of bad intent — he had not stated his position "as clearly as possible".

Unlike Kohl, who views Honecker's reaction as "incomprehensible", Bahr finds it "understandable" albeit regrettable and inappropriate.

He refers to the first visit by the GDR's Prime Minister, Willi Stoph, in Kassel, "where vast numbers of police were required to keep the demonstrations under control".

In view of the press commentaries, such as *Die Welt*, which referred to Honecker's intended visit as undesirable, Honecker was not wrong to expect similar nasty reactions.

In the sparse words of Chancellor Kohl's press spokesman Dieter Stolze, the Chancellor regards the matter of the further fate of an invitation to Honecker as "closed".

Whether the invitation still exists or has been dropped: "the matter is closed".

Whether Kohl will try to resume contact by ringing up the East German leader, "the matter is closed".

Stolze only had this to say: when Chancellor Kohl rang up Erich Honecker after the first border "incident" and told Honecker that as a sign of protest he would refuse to receive his negotiator, Günther Mittag, Honecker made no mention at all of his planned visit.

### No cover up

FDP politicians have welcomed the fact that even leading CSU politicians in parliament are not trying to cover up the strong language and disruptive action from Munich.

However, they disturbing signs recently, in particular from the chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party, Alfred Dregger, that a turnabout in the *Deutschlandpolitik* is in the air.

Are we approaching a general "Ice Age", as one journalist tried to find out from the government spokesmen?

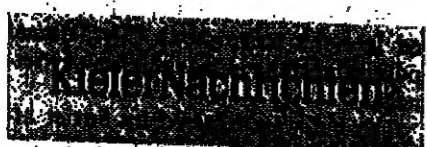
Or are we about to "fall back into the Cold War", a fear expressed by Opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel?

At least the terminology used would indicate a return to the language of years gone by.

The deputy chairman of the FDP's parliamentary party, Cronenberg, for example, has again spoken of the "Iron Curtain".

Gerd Rauhaus  
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 30 April 1983)

## Checkpoint deaths row not main reason for change of mind



The logical conclusion: call off the visit.

The decision came suddenly and it surprised Bonn. Bonn's reaction left no doubt that both government and opposition do not want to place even greater strains on the relationship between the two states.

Chancellor Kohl said the increased tension was not Bonn's fault. East Germany said it was.

Kohl said the cancellation did not mean that the East Berlin leadership had been relieved of the obligation to try and improve relations. He said Bonn's aim remained to improve the situation for Germans in both states.

It was left to the Opposition leader in Bonn, Hans-Jochen Vogel, to utter the harsh words. He said he regretted Honecker's decision. It was a "bitter setback in German-German relations."

But East Berlin should ask itself whether it might not be over reacting.

One can only hope that this welcome agreement between the Chancellor and the SPD leader will be reflected in relations between government and the Opposition.

In Munich, the Bavarian CSU leader, Franz Josef Strauss, has only been helping to increase the tension with his outbursts. Kohl and Vogel probably have similar opinions about Strauss' approach.

The "reason" given by Honecker for his decision, that various press commentaries had worsened relations, was recognised by the Chancellor as a cheap pretext.

Kohl dryly said that it is generally known that freedom of the press exists in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Chancellor Kohl knows only too well that the East German leader is aware of the difference between the tightly controlled political commentaries in East Germany and the situation in the West.

Axel Ostrowski  
(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 April 1983)

## East Berlin leaders play it safe

Stiddeutsche Zeitung

The decision by the East German leadership to cancel the visit of the Federal Chancellor Kohl to the GDR is a dramatic but it is not a catastrophe. Yet the cancellation, even if it was not 100 per cent certain, sounds a warning which should be taken seriously.

The government in Bonn stands solidly behind its home. Unanimity is needed.

The issue has thrown up fundamental differences between the CDU and CSU. Chancellor Kohl said the GDR is a powerful counterweight to the West.

As the economy regained momentum, the role changed to that of social partners, of co-guardians of prosperity and talk and act in such a way as to ensure that the decision was almost

have been taken. Talk of a border probably touched a raw nerve in the GDR.

But what happened at the checkpoints and the subsequent demonstrations were alone not the main reason for the decision.

The CSU's aggressive reaction to the GDR's decision to cancel the visit was a way of expressing its

The probability is that Kohl will more reasonable policies through and consistency will be maintained.

But the East Berlin leaders decided to play it safe. That Honecker will only come when the advantages will be greater than the risk of running into a policy in Bonn.

This latest move has made clear: Bonn is in even less of a position to subject the German relationship to sharp fluctuations: it wants special relations to develop.

These are aims which the German government has great difficulty pursuing against the normal course of historical developments.

Honecker's move certainly taken without consultation with the West.

Whether he only received the message in fact urged in any way this move is not known.

In this respect, *Ostpolitik* is a central issue during the week-long Kohl visit to Moscow in July. Even if the exact motives behind Honecker's decision cannot be known, this does not mean that the

of the visit represents a setback in the efforts for German-German relations.

Nobody seems to remember that Schmidt, when he was Chancellor, also initially postponed his visit to East Germany.

Schmidt called off his dog at the wrong time, and then held the dog at the wrong time.

Who knows whether Erich Honecker might not in the end do the same. Remarkable increases in absolute

fewer and fewer working people feel duty-bound to start May Day by going to a trade union labour demonstration.

The union's prestige was badly hit by allegations of financial impropriety in connection with Neue Heimat, the trade union-owned housing corporation.

Many union members will have felt it was yet another reason for making out into the country rather than dealing with the Red Flag in the name of solidarity.

Yet there was no lack of topics that warranted commitment this year. It was the 50th anniversary of the abolition of the trade unions by the Nazis.

It was they who made attendance at May Day parades compulsory while setting up working-class organisations and imprisoning or murdering their representatives.

After the war the unions learnt the lesson of the infighting and disputes that made it so easy for the Third Reich to crush the trade union movement.

They reorganised as single industrial unions, with no party-political bias, and step was incomprehensible.

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## ■ THE WORKFORCE

## Trade union appeal fades in a changing society

many are among the highest in the industrialised West.

But since the worldwide recession has brought this idyll to an abrupt end and made economy the order of the day the trade unions have found it hard to adapt to their new role.

The government has no cash to spare and unemployment is on the increase, leaving little leeway for sharing the proceeds along traditional lines.

What is more, working people have come to see themselves differently. Affluence has made them feel middle-class. They are less susceptible to the pathos of social criticism and charmer of large organisations.

What white- and blue-collar workers today expect of the trade unions is first and foremost protection from loss of jobs and incomes.

Key classic trade union demands such as the call for equal representation on boards of directors are barely endorsed even by members.

So union officials face a rank and file that is easy-going and little inclined to aggression. Union members are also allergic to skeletons in the trade unions' cupboard, such as the Neue Heimat scandal.

The repercussions of this creeping alienation are particularly keenly felt by honorary shopfloor union officials, the men and women who are the link between the rank and file and full-time officials.

## Rich Germans just keep getting richer, discovers survey

People in the Federal Republic of Germany are among the world's wealthiest in terms of both income and wealth, says a Bonn economic research institute.

The average household is said to have amassed wealth and property to the value of roughly DM230,000, and does not include pension rights averaging DM130,000.

One German in 25 is said to belong to a millionaire household, while over a quarter of the population are members of households worth at least DM500,000.

The Bonn institute (its board chairman is CDU economic affairs expert Professor Bledenkopf) entitled its report *The Understood Revolution*.

It is an attempt to analyse the financial position of private households on the basis of the latest figures. The last comparable survey was in 1970.

Both Professor Bledenkopf and the director of the institute, Meinhard Miegel, the findings are little short of sensational.

In recent years the sector of the population that is poorest off has grown even poorer in relative terms, but it has also clearly declined in number.

The number of really wealthy West Germans is also said to have declined.

Politicians, the institute says, definitely must respond to the changes in these key economic and social data, especially in view of the progressive population decline in the wake of above-average growth until the early 1970s.

Remarkable increases in absolute

They are thus less enthusiastic about union work, while critical youngsters who ought to be the pepper and spice of the trade unions are likewise looking elsewhere.

The union machinery as they see it is too established, too cumbersome and too big. Small is beautiful is a slogan that has not passed the union movement by.

Progressive young people are tending to give preference to a principle that is more conservative, with a liberal tinge: the idea of self-help in small and manageable groups without hierarchical structures and without governing bodies threatened by stultification.

Self-realisation is today's slogan, and young people tend to see it as doing their own thing for themselves and others of similar persuasions, but also for the socially disadvantaged.

Self-help groups do away with what the young find so distasteful about established organisations. They rely on spontaneity and emotion rather than rules and a functional approach.

The contrast can be demonstrated in exemplary fashion with reference to relations between the trade unions and the Greens.

For a trade unionist committed to discipline and solidarity the Green MPs in Bonn, with their principle of rotation, are bound to appear chaotic.

Conversely, supporters of the alternative movement can hardly fail to view

Since the turn of the century the average age of the population as a whole has increased to 45, while the proportion of over-65s has trebled and that of under-18s has been halved.

This is said to mean that the social security system will need adapting to current economic and social circumstances and the requirements the population figure necessitates.

Politics, economics and society must work on the assumption that trends have changed for good in the wake of demographic and economic changes over the past few decades.

The institute will not be publishing for several months a further section of the report that goes into the political consequences it feels need drawing.

But it recommends in the section now published a change of emphasis in social security.

Someone who is unemployed, the report points out, receives most money from the state in the first few months of being out of work.

The longer he or she is unemployed, the lower the unemployment benefit gets. Since most people who are out of work usually have some money set aside, why not dispense with benefits entirely or in part for an initial period and set more aside for long-term unemployment?

Similar considerations could apply to sickness benefit.

If the current crisis is to be successfully handled, the report concludes, society will need to deal satisfactorily with prosperity-related changes in all spheres of life.

Peter J. Velle  
(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 28 April 1983)

the 'functioning functionary' as a stooge of the power set-up.

If the unions are to enlist the support of young activists for their cause they must show greater awareness of what is going on among the youthful rank and file.

Not every apprentice who votes for the Greens at age 18 is a traitor to the working-class cause.

The DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trades union confederation, has come to realise that environmental protection and jobs are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

But if the unions are to regain credibility amongst the young they will have to be more open, more flexible and more imaginative (and imaginative in their wage demands too).

Reactivation of small-scale self-help groups such as the cooperatives were in their early days might be one such opportunity.

Letsure activities and educational opportunities are a major challenge for the unions to take up at a time when public money is less and less readily available.

The struggle against unemployment may enjoy priority but these other issues ought not to be forgotten. If the point were taken, May Day meetings might one day regain their erstwhile attraction.

Suse Weidenbach  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 30 April 1983)

## Moderation the tone of May Day speeches

Franz Steinkühler, the firebrand Stuttgart regional secretary of IG Metall, the iron and steel workers' union, was the odd man out at this year's May Day demonstrations.

He sounded a shrill note, whereas the general impression at May Day meetings was one of moderation, doubtless due in part to record unemployment.

The generally moderate line of argument proves that the unions have long come to appreciate economic exigencies and to take them into account.

One such realisation is the fact that jobs are going to be a scarce commodity for some time.

That is probably why politicians have decided to take up the trade union proposal for a shorter working-week and similar ideas.

It may also be why everyone is so keen to get to grips with unemployment as a problem with social, economic and moral repercussions.

May Day addresses provided and opportunity to review progress on bids to reduce the amount of time people spend at work.

The number of people whose views can be taken seriously who have come out in favour of some such measure seems steadily to have increased.

Even within the Bonn government there is probably majority support for shorter working hours, always assuming a vote ever needed taking.

Fewer and fewer union officials persist in calling for a shorter working week on full pay.

That is important because as far as the government and a probable majority in the coalition parties is concerned a shorter working week on less than full pay is the only feasible option.

The trend is definitely toward majority support in Parliament for working shorter hours as a means of fighting unemployment.

Albin André  
(Nordwest Zeitung, 2 May 1983)



## ■ THE ECONOMY

## The government accused of saying a lot and doing little

The spring report by the German economic research institutes has not much good news for the government.

Chancellor Kohl's coalition, which took over power with the intention of changing economic and financial policies, is criticised on economic, financial and social grounds.

The government is accused of having said a lot but of having done little.

The institutes do see signs of a gradual economic recovery. But not because of the government's efforts. It is because of a more relaxed monetary policy and by the expectations that the coalition would actually do what it said.

### Spending cuts 'not enough'

The Bonn government's economic steps have run into criticism from the conservative majority of the economic research institutes.

The government has cut back public spending, put the brakes on public debt, removed certain social benefits and it has given companies more tax incentives.

In doing so it has followed expert advice. But this has not saved it from the bludgeon of the institutes' spring report.

The cuts in spending are much too low, they complain.

The measures designed to help finance economic aid, such as the increase in value added tax or the special investment levy, are even regarded as steps in the wrong direction.

Of course the experts may be wrong themselves. The government would be wise not to follow their advice.

They may well be brimming over with noble principles of responsibility and the willingness to achieve greater things, yet they cannot free themselves from contradiction.

For now, the government and the Bundesbank are asked to stop what, in the opinion of the experts, has brought about the modest economic revival in the first place: the promotion of housing construction and the expansion in the amount of money available to the economy.

The recommendations are on the whole tantamount to a demand to commit political suicide.

The government is asked to bring down taxation and at the same time call off the tax increases already decided upon.

Increased contributions to the unemployment benefit and pension schemes ought to be dropped and such increases avoided in future.

Where is the money for all this going to come from? Who is going to finance the pensions?

What is going to happen to the steel industry and the shipyards without government assistance?

Scientific experts do not have to answer questions like this. The government does.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 May 1983)

The experts refer to this as an "advance in confidence".

The political parties have reacted to the report in line with well-worn rituals. Economic-policy spokesmen appear and speak of confirmation.

The SPD sees the clear confirmation of its fears and worries, the CDU/CSU of its diagnosis that the turning point is indeed a thing of the present.

The FDP regards the report as a confirmation of its own basic positions.

Even the Federal Minister of Economics, Count Otto Lambdordt, who should really react in a more subdued way in the face of the considerable criticism levelled against him, cannot avoid the formula of confirmation.

All groups are able to quote the passages in the report best suited to their own views.

The government and the two coalition parties, for example, single out the facts that economic revival is under way and that the absolute low of this slack period has been overcome much faster than predicted by the economic research institutes half a year ago.

The opposition points out the fact that unemployment is expected to rise to 2.8 million by next spring and all too readily underlines the "confirmation" by the economic institutes that the government's course lacks clarity, consistency and thus credibility, and that a lasting upward development is in no way guaranteed.

The institutes themselves must accept some blame for the varied echoes of

reactions to the report, for it offers a variety of assessments.

First, there are doubts as to whether what has been happening to the economy over the past few months can be classed as a business-cycle upswing.

There are also doubts as to whether the improvement is sufficient to turn investment activities into a motor for self-sustaining expansion.

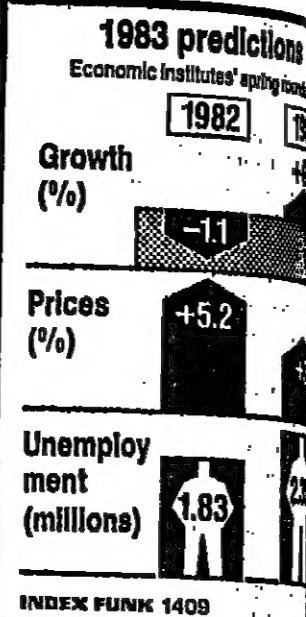
On one hand, the prediction is made that the recovery will continue; in another section of the report there are fears that this recovery may begin to flag during the year.

Then there is conflict over the most suitable strategy. Most of the institutes ask for tax reliefs and a reduction in public spending, whereas a minority say the risk is too great and the fear is expressed that if the economy takes this consolidation path it will inevitably find itself confronted with even greater problems.

The majority of the institutes, on the other hand, supports a catalogue of demands designed to reduce state interventions, demands similar to those recommended to the government by its own advisory board of experts.

The concept put forward by the institutes may well be logical and compact in terms of economic science.

The considerations made may well be of value as a point of reference and even economic policies subject to the pressures to act exerted by the "real" economic world cannot do without models based on "pure theory".



Yet the economic institutes have helped more by showing a sense of reality.

The demand to cut back on the agricultural and mining sectors remove them altogether in the and in the steel industry are realistic.

One single national government not practise an exclusively policy in these international economic areas of the economy.

National economic policy hopes to be successful where the of Ministers of the EEC and economic summits have failed.

But a national government course, be in a position to achieve a minimum of agreement between and practical measures.

The advance in confidence is a risk of being gambled away by the misadventure of change falls to se.

Frank J. E. (Stuttgarter Zeitung)

## Rate of price increases is getting slower faster

It is indicated by the state of various current-account balances.

A complete passing-on of the forthcoming increase in value added tax to the consumer, who has once again realised his power in this economic phase, is doubtful.

Finally, lower energy prices and a moderate increase in wages provide relief on the cost side.

The low market interest rates are just as important, for they can support demand and facilitate investment decisions.

The overall optimism with regard prices is backed up by the Deutsche Bundesbank.

At a conference of German savings-banks in Frankfurt president of the Bundesbank, Karl Otto Pohl, gave assurances that the top monetary officials would not permit the emergence of a new inflation potential.

The past tells us that if necessary such words are followed by deeds.

During the past, as one joker put it, the inflation rate was brought down by governments moving the decimal point one space to the left.

This has fundamentally changed, the world over. There is generally a gradual reduction in the considerable disruptions of equilibrium suffered by many economies, including Germany's for many years.

Continued on page 7

## ■ BUSINESS

## Slaking the thirst of a nation — at a profit

But the high growth rates, particularly for mineral water, will slow.

Beverages are subject to a natural slowdown in consumption growth rates on account of gradually reaching the saturation point of about 700 litres per year per person.

However, ten years ago this saturation level was put at 600 litres, so there would seem to be scope for an upward shift.

Nevertheless, the lasting stagnation in the population figures will set a limit to the expansion of the overall consumption of drinks.

The Basle-based economic research institute, Prognos AG, forecasts an average

annual growth rate for soft drinks of 2.0 per cent between 1980 and 1985, the figure dropping to 1.7 per cent between 1985 and 1990.

Most of the growth is accounted for by mineral water (4.3 and 3.3 per cent) and fruit juices (3.0 and 2.6 per cent).

The consumption of mineral water will benefit from the growing health awareness and the stricter alcohol laws. It is also cheaper than other non-alcoholic drinks.

Fruit juices and nectars will also sell more because of growing health consciousness.

There is a clear trend in this respect towards higher-priced qualities with a special health touch.

Fizzy drinks and other sweet drinks will lose their importance as drinks for children.

Due to the market strength of the large suppliers, cola drinks will, however, be able to strengthen their position.

The more "adult oriented" drinks, such as the bitter drinks and the diabetic drinks can expect further increases. However, the share of the market will remain limited.

On the whole, the traditional field of carbonated (fizzy) refreshments will have to face increased competition from fruit juices and mineral water, where new products will cater for the trend towards differentiated consumption.

The favourable position compared

with other branches, will only satisfy those who think purely in terms of quantities.

For the soft-drinks market is increasingly characterised by "crowding-out" and the number of individual business operations is decreasing and will continue to.

Above all, the spring-water companies are stuck with substantial surplus capacities, set up in expectation of a demand boom.

Although price increases were pushed through last year, the branch still has a price level similar to 15 years ago.

The main beneficiaries of the favourable sales situation are the regional and supra-regional suppliers of mineral water, while the local springs are usually forced to put their goods on the shelves at low prices to get into distribution channels at all.

The market for sweet refreshment drinks is decisively influenced by the tough competition between the big American suppliers, which are making life more and more difficult for the medium-scale enterprises, with their own brands.

As regards the marketing agents there have also been trends towards increased concentration.

The food trade, which gets most of the drinks to the right man, represents a considerable force and influences the sales, price and terms of its suppliers.

This also means that it prefers brands which are distributed on a supra-regional basis, are well known and have a corresponding advance sale on account of advertisements.

What is really needed is a vast improvement in marketing.

Karlheinz Voss (Handelsblatt, 3 May 1983)

## Eaters out go for exotic restaurants

Only 49 per cent of all West Germans prefer German food when they go out for a meal.

The other 51 per cent prefer foreign food. French is the most popular, followed by Balkan, Italian and Chinese.

This is the result of a survey by the Wicket Institute in Tübingen.

A similar survey seven years ago revealed that 68 per cent went for the

German food and only 32 per cent for the foreign.

Older Germans go for German meals, the younger for the foreign.

Among 18 to 30 year-olds, only 29 per cent preferred German foods.

Over-60s preferred the local food by 68 per cent as against 32 per cent.

Of 18 to 30 year-olds with foreign preference, 29 per cent prefer French, 18 per cent Balkan, 19 per cent Italian, 14 per cent Chinese and two per cent others.

As the Wicket Institute points out, there is a message somewhere for people who want to run restaurants. ddp (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 May 1983)

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## Men go for beer while their wives opt for coffee

Alcoholic drinks, ranging from beer to schnaps, from wine to whiskey, make up 78.64 per cent of all liquids consumed by the average German.

A study shows that men are much more thirsty than women: 676 litres of various liquids go down each German male throat each year. Women only manage 416 litres.

What do men like to drink most? "Beer, of course," say 29 per cent of those surveyed, 19 per cent prefer coffee, 9 per cent mineral water, 8 per cent tea, and 8 per cent wine.

Among women, coffee is easily the most popular drink. It is preferred by one in four; 13 per cent go for mineral water, 9 per cent for fruit juices, 6 per cent in each case go for beer, tea, refreshment drinks and wine, 5 per cent for both milk and herbal tea.

The figures issued by drink manufacturers help complete the picture:

● Beer: Last year 94.8 million hectolitres of beer was brewed (+1.2%) in the 1,023 breweries in the Federal Republic of Germany. Total turnover: DM13.8bn (+5%).

● Wine: Last year 16 million hectolitres, an increase of 116 per cent and a record, was fermented. Per capita consumption was 24.8 litres.

● Spirits: A 15 per cent sales drop and a 5 per cent decrease in the value of the sales to DM5.85bn. The main reason, says the industry was the two increases in the tax on spirits within a year. The 138 distilleries which distil schnaps and other spirits produced a total of 3.3 mil-

lion hectolitres last year, as compared to 3.65 hectolitres the year before.

● Soft: 268m bottles were sold in 1982, 15 million down on 1981. The main reason: increase in tax.

● Mineral water: Sales increased by 10 per cent to 2.8 billion litres.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 April 1983)

Continued from page 6

bringing about a reasonable degree of economic growth.

This does not, however, mean that stability policies must step down into second position on the priority list.

The economic tightrope walk requires added support from the state and both sides of industry.

This approach is in line with the recommendations made to extend the four objectives of the "Magic Rectangle" (growth, full employment, price stability and balance of payments equilibrium) by adding two more: restraint in public spending and a more harmonious income distribution.

A combined strategy will only then function smoothly if policies in general are geared towards greater stability.

Only then are hopes for growth with out inflation realistic and only then is a lasting reduction in the level of unemployment a realistic suggestion.

A comment by former Bundespräsident Walter Scheel sums up this line of argument: "Stability isn't everything, but without it everything else is of no use".

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 May 1983)



## PERSPECTIVE

# What the arrival of the Greens signifies for German politics

The Greens cannot be assessed solely in terms of the numerical weight they carry in Parliament.

They make up a slender wedge two seats across and 14 rows deep in the Bundestag, but it is a deep rift in the post-war political world.

For the Federal Republic of Germany it marks nothing less than a turning-point. The Bundestag in its present composition is the sum-total of an entire era in the country's history.

The arrival of the Greens in Bonn is the latest development in a trend that began 10 or 15 years ago, first on the outskirts, at provincial universities, then progressively making headway.

It has been a process of fundamental change and disintegration of the old order, of protest and dissociation, of departure from and repudiation of political consensus.

This erstwhile political consensus was rough-hewn in the immediate post-war era and comfortably furnished during the period of post-war prosperity.

It came to be regarded as the ground-work on which the Federal Republic was based.

The issues on which its repudiation were based have changed too. So have the forces that were the mainstay of change.

What began as a student uprising has become a critical protest against civilisation, and major construction sites and civic meetings, not university departments, are its catalysts.

## Challenge is clear

As time has gone by it has grown increasingly apparent what the repercussions were, and now the Greens are in the Bundestag. It is clear what a challenge they and what they stand for pose to all past policies and politics.

The Greens are not just a splinter group (and this is not the place to discuss whether or not they are a bona fide political party).

They are not just indicative of the impact of issues such as environmental hazards, the aggressive wish for peace and the fresh outlook on life taken by the younger generation.

The vote of electoral confidence that took them into the Bundestag is first and foremost the other side of the coin of mistrust of established political parties.

They primarily represent the reluctance many people feel to continue to allow themselves to be represented by the party-political Establishment.

In short, they are an expression at the polls of a widespread dissatisfaction with politics as it is.

That is why the importance of the Greens lies less in what they might say or do in practical parliamentary work. They themselves are the message.

It is that roughly two million voters no longer feel themselves adequately represented by conventional political convictions.

They testify to a determination to be different as seen in their fundamental opposition to established politics.

It may look like a happening but it is meant seriously and must be taken seriously.



It is more than a breakthrough in political conventions in the form of open-necked shirts and members knitting in the Bundestag.

It symbolises not only the demand for different policies but also a call for politics itself to be different.

It must become easier to get on with, enter, and transposed, as it were, from the political sphere, into that of everyday experience and the way people ordinarily live.

It is a call for politics to seek greater proximity to the people, to those affected and to those who, hopefully, are to be given a share in decision-making.

Views may and will differ on the advantages and drawbacks of the "new" politics, but there can be no doubt that dissatisfaction with the "politics of old" is more than a tear-jerking catchphrase.

It is, moreover, not just limited to the alternative periphery of society or to people who voted Green.

The malaise is more far-reaching, extending to supporters of all political parties, and few thoughtful observers of the political scene will feel able to disregard it.

All these protests and challenges could set little enough in motion if much had not already been on the move in the breadth and depth of society, and normal society too.

The system that appears to be faced with dropouts, new ways of life and agonising reappraisals is anything but a firmly-based society that is unaffected by anything resembling self-doubt.

It may at times seem, from the outside, to be as firm as a rock, but this impression is offset by the findings opinion pollsters have lately unearthed.

People are disenchanted to a dramatically high degree with established political parties. They are prepared to a surprising extent to accept demonstrations and protest movements as modes of political debate.



Greens (on bicycles) make a point.

Many are opposed to the stationing of fresh nuclear weapons in Germany, and all these views go far beyond the views espoused by the political Establishment.

The general election results showed that such sentiments have yet to make any serious impact on voting habits. But that doesn't disprove their existence.

Is dissatisfaction with politics entirely unwarranted? Politics by a large still keeps the system functioning. Government, the economy and society still work, which is no mean achievement.

But the mere functioning no longer exercises any fascination and can no longer be said to set people's minds at rest either.

Seldom indeed does it still convey a heartwarming feeling of togetherness.

Besides, what Kurt Biedenkopf once referred to as the gap in understanding in politics is by no means limited to the context he meant.

## Painful wedges

The former CDU general secretary was referring to the discrepancy between the thin air of abstraction in which nuclear strategy seemed to be at home and the dwindling opportunity of viewing it as a matter for personal political commitment.

But gaps of this kind are apparent in all sectors of politics, and everywhere they drive a painful wedge between people's everyday experience and the political problems on which their destiny depends.

They exist in respect of both high tech and acid rain and extend to the simplest pieces of paperwork, as was shown by Helmut Schmidt's lament, as Chancellor, that he couldn't make head nor tail of his electricity bill.

So it is hardly surprising that more and more people feel politics has come adrift of their lives, of normal life of any kind.

And it is hardly surprising that the Greens exist, for whatever they may be.

The challenge to established politics that the Greens represent is far more than the country faces. It is not only one of the country's face, but also of its soul. The state of the economy, the budget and realising the security system, are likely to be more heavily.

That is not as much as to be seen in the mountains problems on the horizon of world trade and national relations.

But that does not absolve of their responsibility to be aware of crisis of politics to which the Bundestag so tellingly testifies.

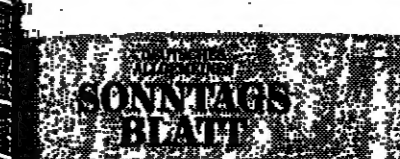
Politics itself alone can hardly challenge to itself, by dealing with dissatisfaction that has prompted.

To quote educationalist Hans Hentig the political system must be set up by residents along the being the *res publica* it has to be: a matter for the entire people.

(The Zeit.)

## TRANSPORT

# Bundesbahn sees fast trains as answer to car and aircraft



Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, are pepping up major routes and cutting back on less efficient branch lines.

They are aiming to make their service compete with the private car and the aircraft.

Speed is the essence of Bundesbahn planning: cruising speeds of between 200 and 250kph, or 125 to 156mph.

Current inter-city services already reach 200kph on a handful of routes, such as between Munich and Augsburg.

Most of the permanent way dates back to the 19th century.

These days rail transport was a catalyst for the modern world. A railway was a catalyst for the modern world. A railway was a catalyst for the modern world.

But they are certainly the catalyst for the modern world. A railway was a catalyst for the modern world. A railway was a catalyst for the modern world.

The new Bundesbahn is doing a substantial majority of its business as Free Democrats, both parties not be suspected of casting doubt on established politics.

This in itself need not be an argument against the external function with it.

Against the background of the tunneling, as shown by the two sections of permanent way under construction between Hanover and Hamburg and Mannheim and Stuttgart.

About a third of the track passes through tunnels and a further third runs through cuttings. A quarter is at ground level or on embankments. The remainder is on bridges.

The tunnels will naturally be a great relief to neighbouring residents; they are absolutely soundproof. So, up to a point, are the sections that run through cuttings.

People who live near new sections of permanent way now under construction are understandably worried about the noise trains travelling at 250kph are likely to make.

The Bundesbahn has commissioned an extensive noise survey and ruled that in residential areas trains are not to exceed 55 perceived noise decibels.

That is about 15 decibels less than the city traffic can reach, and a reduction by three decibels is substantial enough.

Three perceived noise decibels less is a matter of principle every effort has been taken to ensure that the new permanent way keeps well clear of built-up areas.

But wherever the noise limit is exceeded embankments must be raised and walls built to ensure soundproofing to keep within the limit.

Mainly conservative protest groups have been set up by residents along the proposed route. They are opposed to the sections of the permanent way that they have little or no leeway in which to emerge from the red.

Tamm, a village in Württemberg, is a case in point. Part of the track is to be tunnelled there, the remainder to be a cutting.

Residents are clamouring for the entire section to be tunnelled. They argue that the land through which the permanent way is to pass is good farmland and that a tunnel would result in no loss of acreage.

Bundesbahn planners are particularly proud of the limited space needed by the new track in comparison with other modes of transport.

A six-lane autobahn, including central reservation and hard shoulder, is 37.50 metres, or 123ft, wide. A canal in keeping with current European specifications is 55 metres, or 180ft, wide.

Twin railway tracks with overhead electricity masts on either side are a mere 13.70 metres, or 45ft, across.

What this means in practice is that the 327km (204 miles) of new track from Hanover to Würzburg would take up a surface area of only 1,055 hectares, or 2,637 acres, as against over 2,300 hectares, or 5,750 acres, of land the proposed new Munich airport would engulf.

Opponents can use legal procedures to challenge only sections of the route. The project as a whole can only be delayed, not brought to a complete halt.

But basically they are opposed to the construction of new sections of railway because they feel the railways as a whole are outmoded.

The trend is increasingly toward road transport in both passenger and freight traffic, they argue, so expensive new railway projects are superfluous and a waste of money.

Ecologists, on the other hand, are all

in favour of expanding the public transport network, while Bundesbahn advertising is at pains to stress that the railways are the cleanest mode of transport available. Electric locomotives do not, it is true, emit exhaust fumes or other harmful substances en route. But the electric power they use is generated at power stations, and most of the Bundesbahn's power stations are coal-fired. Now that rivers, lakes and entire forests seem to be falling foul of pollution the railways can no longer make themselves out to be so innocent in environmental terms.

They could if they were to outstrip everyone else in fitting out their power stations with filters to prevent the release of sulphur into the atmosphere.

The Bundesbahn's energy use is hard to surpass. Passenger and goods traffic require only a third of the energy by rail that they need for transport by road.

The Airbus, which is so highly rated as an economic aircraft, consumes six times as much energy. The railways even outperform transport by inland waterways on this count.

Another argument opponents put forward is that high-speed trains merely zoom past without bringing the slightest

progress in transport technology to the provinces.

This argument is hard to refute. On the Mannheim-Stuttgart section, for instance, there will be only four points of contact between the new route and the old.

These will be the only junctions at which other trains can intersect with the new permanent way and reduce to some extent the time it takes to travel by rail from the surrounding areas to the built-up areas at either end.

Existing inter-city services no longer stop between Heidelberg and Stuttgart, so the new track will make little difference to connecting services.

That leaves the fundamental issue of whether higher speed and shorter travel times are worth the expense. All that can be said is that it will make an impressive difference between Mannheim and Stuttgart.

At present the permanent way twists and turns through hilly country and even inter-city trains take 80 minutes to cover the distance.

By the 1990s, when the new permanent way is in use, the time it takes will have been halved to 40 minutes!

That will make the Rhine-Neckar region (Mannheim and Heidelberg) virtually a part of Stuttgart's catchment area, while the time trains take from Hanover to Würzburg will be cut by over an hour.

The aim is attract more passengers. It may work, although no-one can say for sure. If neighbouring France is any guide it should do so.

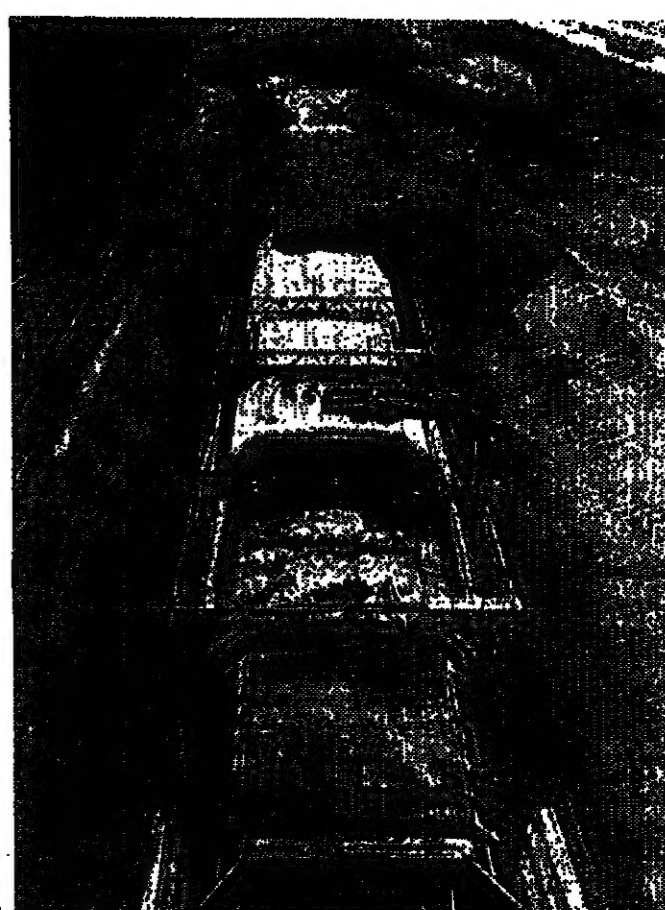
Since the introduction of super-fast rail services between Paris and Lyons the number of passengers is reported to have increased by 50 per cent.

The financial situation allowing, the two new sections of permanent way in Germany are not to be the last.

In the Upper Rhine valley the track between Rastatt and Basle is to be rebuilt, as further downstream is the section from Cologne to Koblenz.

But it will definitely be the 21st century before trains reach speeds of 250kph on these routes.

Bernd-Wilfried Kriessler  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 10 April 1983)



It's quicker to go straight through... rail tunnel being built by the cut-and-cover system. (Photo: Deutsche Bundesbahn)

## Sackings, line closures planned in bid to cut huge rail debt

The Bundesbahn intends closing some routes and sacking staff in an effort to put a halt to its spiralling debt.

The board of the nationalised Bundesbahn has announced two possible plans. The most radical would involve cutting manpower from 312,000 to 230,000 by 1987 and to 212,000 by 1990.

Subject to these cuts the board feels running losses could be limited to DM5bn a year by 1990 provided Federal government subsidies were maintained at DM13.5bn per annum.

The less drastic of the two plans presupposes a greater increase in productivity and capacity utilisation. It provides for annual closures of 2,000km of passenger line, leaving 16,000km still in use by 1990.

Manpower would be cut by 10,000 a year until 1987 and thereafter, until 1990, by 8,000 a year.

Running losses might then be cut to DM2.8bn a year by 1987 and to DM1.8bn a year by 1990, with accumulated debts totalling DM48bn and DM56bn respectively.

Manpower cuts are a prospect to which the railwaymen's union is understandably opposed.

Wolfram Weidner  
(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 21 April 1983)



The environment and environmental protection are issues laden with strong feelings.

Germans are more afraid of nature being jeopardised than they are of unemployment, war or a higher crime rate; 77 per cent put the environment at the head of their list of worries, according to an EEC survey last year.

But the expression given to this fear is generally uncertain, jittery and shrill. The environment has emerged as a catchphrase in disputes between group egoists, party-political, tacticians and social strategists.

Given pride, prejudice born of ignorance and a Gordian knot of problems, it is hardly surprising that a number of civil servants have been spared with information in compiling the first ecological inventory of the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

They would, for example, said nothing about foodstuffs analyses.

What comes as more of a surprise is the amount of information that was available about atmospheric pollution, noise, waterways, drinking water, the soil, waste, harmful substances in what we eat, and nature conservation.

Compiled by Federal and state government agencies, it has been collected and evaluated for the State of the Nation: its ecological state, that is.

This is the programmatic title of an environmental atlas that lists and illustrates the 26 worst environmental hazards as they occur in each Land and Berlin.

The result is 180 coloured maps, charts and tables linking data, facts and analyses. Grades from 1 to 6 are awarded (as low as 7 in the case of environmental protection).

The average grade can then be taken

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### Neuburg-Schrobenhausen goes to top of the class

as a cross-section of the area's performance, with less than 2.5 counting as very good and more than 4 as bad.

The findings are that the environment is still in good shape in over half the country, the highest marks being scored by Neuburg-Schrobenhausen, a rural area in Lower Bavaria.

In roughly one in four of the Federal Republic's 238 administrative districts and metropolitan boroughs the state of the environment is either unsatisfactory or bad.

The worst marks are scored by two cities in the Ruhr, Bochum and Dortmund.

The ratings must not be overestimated, and not every missing item of information could be compensated for, but the first regional assessment of the environment is the most detailed and comprehensive there has ever been.

The grades are arranged in such a way that a single grade cannot blot an otherwise unimpeachable copybook. Neuburg-Schrobenhausen averages 2.1 despite 1 to 6 for nature conservation.

At the other end of the scale Bochum averages 4.6 despite a faultless 1 for sewage disposal.

Environmental ratings are poor, as might be expected, in the industrial areas on the Rhine and the Ruhr. They are predictably poor in Frankfurt and Mannheim. But they are none too good in Nuremberg and Bonn too.

They are unsatisfactory in nearly all other conurbations, including Hamburg, with 3.8, and Berlin, with 3.6. The exception is Munich, with a middle-of-the-road 3.0.

The countrywide trends that can be inferred from regional figures are by no means entirely negative. The shortage of oxygen that used to threaten rivers and lakes with biological death by virtue of a surfeit of sewage is on the decline.

Sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is likewise on the decline, although since 1970 three and a half million tonnes of sulphur dioxide were pumped into the air, from factory and power station chimneys.

That corresponds to an annual pollution equivalent to 62,000 freight cars of pure sulphur.

Sulphur dioxide, which is partly converted into sulphuric acid in the atmosphere, is considered to be a principal cause of acid rain and the tree death epidemic.

It also accelerates the corrosion of steel and masonry.

The atlas is first again to relate tree deaths to the surface area of a given district that is listed as being woodland or forest.

More than 15 per cent of listed woodland has been in many areas, especially in the Ruhr, in the north-west of Baden-Württemberg, along the eastern border of the Federal Republic and in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony between the Weser and the Elbe.

Last year 7.7 per cent of woodland in the country was damaged. Six pine trees out of 10 were diseased.

Alarming figures are given for heavy metal counts in soil, drinking water and foodstuffs.

Much more phosphates, fertiliser containing cadmium, are used in Germany than in other comparable countries: 74kg per hectare per annum.

About one per cent of drinking water contains more than 90 milligrams of nitrate all the year round. The WHO recommends a maximum of 45 milligrams.

If there were as much lead in drinking water as there is in white wine it ought not to be touched with a barge-pole!

Nature conservation proves inadequate as a yardstick. There isn't a single nature reserve in the country that complies with international requirements for an unspoilt nature reserve.

Nine out of 10 of the Federal Republic's 1,500 or so nature reserves, no larger than a trio of pitches, or less than 200 hectares.

This area, equivalent to 50 per cent of the absolute minimum in which eco-systems will function.

About five times more land is covered by asphalt and concrete in Germany than is listed as a nature reserve.

Now the ecological balance has stood up and been counted for a shortage of alarming figures in unsatisfactory states of affairs.

The atlas deals with the natural ground water is used, radiating the open air and in people's lung and stomach cancer frequency, traffic density, the quality of the area of space available.

The data compiled, analysed and conclusions reached by Edgar Koch, the scientific journalist, Fritz Vahrenholt, a senior official of the Ministry of Environment, cannot lightly be dismissed.

They are both keenly interested in environmental affairs and were in 1978 of a report entitled *Umwelt (Sovets is Everywhere)*. There is no mistaking their commitment, which at times acquires an emotional tinge, as when they speak of trees suffering from starvation.

Edmund R. Koch and Fritz Vahrenholt are authors of *Umwelt (Sovets is Everywhere)*, published by Geo Verlag, Hamburg, 484pp., DM19.80.

Rhine as the eternal German to the topsoil as long as suffering.

The text, detailed and sometimes by telling colour photos, is understandable without oversimplification.

Before publication the atlas and encouraged a number of teachers and local government officials by telling colour photos, is understandable without oversimplification.

It could well be dubbed a book, drawing a comparison to the white books, black books, blue books, and the like.

The difference is that the mental atlas was published as a government initiative but on a commercial basis as a scientific publication. It is published for Geo Verlag, which are literally left upon the latter are (still) only fragments, programmes to be completed during the next years: a more sceptical than optimistic, hesitant now start.

Alexander (Deutsches Allgemeines)

## THE ARTS

### Meet Jean Harlow and the Beatles in the Peter Blake wonderland

Harlow smiles out from under the violet brim of her hat, an ending tooth-paste smile from the picture-mirrored frame.

Jimmy Roxy, with a neat hair-do, dripping from London to New York, taking along mementos ranging from the Tower Bridge to the Statue of Liberty.

Adolf Hitler greets us with his wrestler's arm, Irish Lord X through a threatening mask, and Zebra Kid has added his music.

The Beatles are there too, nice young men, the space is still empty where their figure should be.

Young boys without faces wear pin-faces on their proud faces. Children reading comics. Alice looks out behind the looking-glass.

The painter himself wears a jeans suit in 1978 of a report entitled *Umwelt (Sovets is Everywhere)*.

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the consumer goods, which both became items of mass production.

Pop art in Britain was very fast to increase awareness of mass culture, mass media and everyday myths, sweeping aside the barriers between "advanced culture" and subculture, between the banal and the artistically beautiful.

Pop art in Britain took an intelligent course of development, incredibly sensitive to the artistic changes in the mood of the period.

Peter Blake, as an art student in London (he was once in the Royal Air Force), was one of the first artists to take a closer look at the roots and effects of trivial art.

"I am trying to find the technical means of regaining the authentic feeling of popular art."

Blake was a loner, an artist with a particular preference for painting children, the circus, wrestlers and striptease dancers.

He was attracted by myths, rock music, for example, because it was popular, even though he preferred jazz himself.

However, he never turned into a myth himself as did Andy Warhol in New York.

He saw himself as a "fan of the legend not of the person" and never saw Elvis Presley, even though he was a recurrent theme in his works. He once said: "What I do becomes popular art."

And so he transposed his artistic yearnings for the world of stars and the small and cosy world of privacy into his traditional way of painting.

This often brought about problems: the tangible additions, the unfinished sections, the blurred zones, naive techniques of composition and the ironic imitations of reality.

Imitation is the key to this artistic world and is a prime factor in the ap-

pealing combination of entertainment and reflection to be found in Blake's works. All is imitated: the lookers, the pinboards, the hoardings. For example, in one of his main early paintings, the balcony picture completed between 1955-1957, there are imitated hints of fine art: (Manet, Matisse), of magazine front pages, of Elvis buttons, of souvenirs, of corn-

flake advertising Blake's Jean Harlow and last but not least of the royal family waving on the balcony, the inspiration for the picture's name.

Pictures within a picture, on various levels, have been included in the painting and child-like figures are exposed to all these pictures in the painting itself.

The series of imitations could be continued: from the puffed-up postcard couples, Alice in Wonderland to the more recent fairy queen or the almost exact, cold and even rigidly painted meeting between Blake and Hockney, which follows along the lines of Courbet's famous painting "Bonjour Monsieur Courbet", completed in 1854.

Blake has therefore taken the great French painter to Hockney's Californian home and the question could be asked whether this twofold excursion is not just an escape.

For Blake is an eccentric and out-and-out British in character, at least in the eyes of continental Europeans: a



(Photo: Catalogue)

person whose passion for collecting various items seems endless.

Blake is almost too child-like to be seen capable of the ironical detachment so readily attributed to the British.

And yet he is characterised by that which is so appealing about eccentrics: they are loners, with a feel for the comical and crazy, the cryptic, the ambiguous, for the lousy pub atmosphere and the delightful atmosphere of tea parties.

Lowis Carrolls' Madhatter in *Alice in Wonderland* got lost in time and time stood still: six o'clock, tea-time.

The beholder of Blake's early paintings would also like time to stand still, to be able to remember and recognise the freshness of those days. And yet this is not possible.

Times have changed, the painter himself has changed, and has moved on to more uncertain terrain. Ursula Bode

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 April 1983)

### Botched translations or not botched? That's the question

There are times when one is just left speechless. One occasion was during the opening event at this year's Annual Shakespeare Convention in the theatre of Darmstadt.

A venerable, elderly gentleman said all modern German translations of Shakespeare were "botched".

He appealed to German theatre directors to stop playing to the gallery in Shakespeare's name and start "playing Shakespeare" once again.

This hackneyed and meaningless appeal has a familiar ring to it.

It seems that every time a crude word is spoken on stage or a clown pulls down trousers exit doors are slammed in the auditorium and there are cries to the tune of "I'll not have anybody spoil my Shakespeare!"

The fact that such biased hyper-sensitivity was to be heard during such a top-class convention of the German Shakespeare Society West and was then greeted by mumbling approval would unfortunately seem to support facts that the attempts to "clear up" and "loosen up" our theatre over the past 15 to 20

years have not had the desired effect in the opinion of most of the theatre-going audience.

Prejudices would seem to have increased rather than decreased.

This year's topic for discussion was "Translating Shakespeare — Playing Shakespeare".

Two men involved in the practical side of theatre put forward moderately worded and clever arguments supporting a fair share of modernity in dealing with Shakespeare productions.

Shakespeare translator Frank Günther from Wiesbaden emphasised in a cleverly and casually improvised paper the necessity for both first-class knowledge of the English language and for a definite feel for current developments in the "target language".

This does not of course mean that Hamlet is going to have to sound as if it were written by Kretz.

Yet the "poeticism" of the romantic Schlegel-Tieck translations does not correspond to today's demands on language.

The translator is continually faced by

the difficulty of bridging the gap between the current lack of interest in language and the love of the abundant use of language in Shakespeare's times.

Yet even if it is taken into account that language has lost a great deal of its differentiating ability, the persons on stage must use words and sentences actually used and above all understood in the modern world.

Eike Grams, theatrical director at Darmstadt's state theatre, underlined the need to take the present situation into consideration when dealing with the texts written by the Elizabethan playwright.

The interest in older pieces, Grams points out, is connected with the longing for that which is different, alien, for the impetuous self-fulfilment of the Renaissance Titans.

The world of a director who has to deal each day with red traffic-lights and energy-saving is so different from the cosmos existing in Shakespeare's plays.

"We'd never get a rehearsal done if the actors weren't allowed to include their own feelings and experiences."

Professor E. A. J. Honigsmann, of Newcastle upon Tyne showed the extent to which problems of text criticism can affect translation and theatrical production.

His paper on the "Uniqueness of

Continued on page 12

### Meteorological stations all over the world



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## ■ MUSIC

## The organ rolls back on the crest of a crescendo

The organ has been called the Queen of Instruments. It is over 2,000 years old. It and organ music are currently on the crest of a wave of fresh and unexpected popularity both in Europe and further afield.

Up to 4,000 people are reported to be attending Sunday organ concerts at Notre Dame in Paris, while in London businessmen are going to City churches to listen to lunchtime recitals.

In Italy a remote mountain village has become a place of pilgrimage for music-lovers on account of its organ.

But the pilgrim's progress from the pipes of Pan in Ancient Greece to the ornate instruments of the Baroque and the modern organ has taken time.

Organ-builders are architects in wind, channels, wood and metal and repositories of know-how ranging from craftsmanship to art and from manual to musical skills.

Their is a combination virtually unrivalled by any other trade. Every organ is unique, a reflection of the individual and the personality of the organ-builder whose brain-child it was.

He first had the idea of the sound he wanted to create. He put the idea into practice. He was responsible for the complicated details.

"There is nothing from the assembly-line," an organ-builder once said, emphasising the craftsmanship, the immediate contact with the materials and the unique importance of each part and of the whole.

Building organs is said to be a dying craft, and it is clearly true that in an age that is not given to siring complex and distinctive personalities substantial changes are inevitable in organ-building.

Yet the organ-builder must still combine a complex bundle of properties and abilities. So workshops must select their staff and trainees with care.

Continued from page 11

*King Lear* began by looking at the special importance of *Lear* within Shakespeare's canon of tragedy and at the emblematic nature of the play.

Honigsmann then referred to the *Lear* texts written in Shakespeare's time to question the common opinion that *Lear*'s "good" daughter, Cordelia, dies in the final scene.

The interpretation of this part of the play is of vital importance for its production on stage.

Professor Kurt Otten, who lectures in Heidelberg, was the first to wander into the realms of philology, talking on the "Illusory Nature of Love in Shakespeare's Works."

In Shakespeare's later works, he discovers the evaporation of the idealistic principle of love, which had ever since Petrarcha been so common in the literature of the time.

So the lyricist and poet Shakespeare did eventually come into his own in Darmstadt.

However, attention mainly centred around the man of the theatre.

A dozen of the stage then had the final word. The two-and-a-half day event was rounded off with a new production of *King Lear* by Gustav Rudolf Sellner.

Jens Friederiksen

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 27 April 1983)

The best-known organ workshops in Germany are in the south, the south-west, the north and Berlin, also in Potsdam and Frankfurt/Oder in the GDR.

A high degree of craft skill must be accompanied by a subtle musical and artistic perception, a feeling for tone and quality and the ability to grasp and produce ranges of sound.

The master-builder must also have an overview of the organisation and construction, the ability to convert a feeling for space into acoustic expression.

He must have sufficient imagination to strike a balance between sound and interior architecture and be at home with figures to draw up scales.

So how do you set about becoming an organ-builder? "Child's play," says one master-builder. That's what it was in his case.

As a child he was delighted by organ pipes and he made organ-building his profession via practical work in organ maintenance and repair.

One of the most successful present-day organ-builders is Professor Karl Schuke of Berlin, who describes his apprenticeship in a brochure entitled *Von der Freude, Orgeln zu bauen* (On the Delight of Building Organs).

Alongside the technical training he spent three and a half years learning the craft. It can be anything up to 10 years. "You can be as deeply in love with an organ on completion as you can with a woman," he says.

He refers to the many parts played in the present day by these wonderful, powerfully-sounding instruments, to use his turn of phrase.

For decades organ music had been associated with the feeling of solemnity, with religious music and the clerical environment.

Nowadays modern composers such as Penderecki and Ligeti were writing works for the organ that were performed in concert halls.

Professor Schuke has built organs for concert halls in Tokyo and for the Berlin Philharmonie, while his brother, working at the old Potsdam workshop, has built organs for the Moscow conservatory.

Potsdam has also built organs for Vilna, Gorki, the State Music Institute in Alma Ata, and for Sofia and Cracow. Berlin, like most other workshops, is mainly patronised by the churches.

The crowning glory of organ-building is intonation, which is usually carried out where the new organ is to be installed so as to take into account conditions in its acoustic environment.

Each pipe is cut and tuned in keeping with its sound character. This is the true test of an organ-builder's prowess; he is left entirely to his own musical sense.

The intonator must be able to play well and to improvise on the organ so as to demonstrate the new instrument in action.

Before designing a new organ the builder will usually take a look at the room in which it is to be housed. He will get the feel of the architecture and check the acoustics.

He will then set about designing the tone, the character, the disposition of the new instrument and deciding on the number of stops and the kind to be incorporated.

The scales of the pipework will also be arrived at in view of the location. At this stage the design is just a jumble of figures. Each pipe is expressed in terms of figures. Then the design is sent to the craftsmen. Turning a four-millimetre organ pipe on a lathe is a work of art that requires great sensitivity.

You work with copper, tin, zinc and lead alloys. Stops in certain tones are made of wood. The foundry in which the metal is cast is as much a part of the organ-builder's workshop as the electrician and the carpenter.

The carpenter is needed to build the wooden framework for the organ. Even in medium-sized organs the framework is so large that you can climb around inside as if you were working down a mine.

Then comes the technology, which is needed to ensure that many of the functions are performed, such as the slider chest to supply the wind and the electrical equipment for the console of larger models.

Then there are the manuals and the pedals, the array of stops, the action, the furniture, the couplers and the swells.

Last but not least, there is the organ front, which gives the entire instrument architectural shape, serves the purpose of sound reflection and is invariably an expression of character.

Albert Schweitzer once said that no instrument exercised such an influence on the player as the organ did and that the art of the organ was always a product of the organ-builder.

He gave the organ movement initial impetus that led to a change of style in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s.

A lighter, more transparent sound has since been preferred, and more smaller organs have been built, in keeping with today's mainly smaller churches.

There have been other new developments, such as the music of Schönberg, Stravinsky, Hindemith and modern experimental composers.

Technical improvements have made it easier to make more accurate calculations, resulting in design changes. In the 1970s the first organ designed with the aid of a computer was built.

Organs have since been built after consulting acoustic specialists at technical colleges. Organ specialists at acoustic departments have built experimental pipes to test their design concepts.

This technique may make organ-building more expensive but at present it is, or so acoustics experts say, the only way to avoid inconsistency in timbre.

Physicists say modern organs can be inconsistent in timbre, unlike the bal-



This organ, built in Hamburg in 1587, was done up and is now in Gappel, near Bremerhaven.

an organisation has been founded to promote a less conventional method of fighting cancer.

The Society for Biological Cancer Prevention says that conventional medicine has had too little success against the disease.

It says the number of cures is too small for the amount of money that has been pumped in over the years.

"Biological" methods should be used. These had been almost completely neglected until now both in research and in practical application.

It helps patients in "as non-poisonous" a way as possible as much money as needed as orthodox medicine would in this field.

The new society has published new appeals. It has included a bank account number in the hope that it will raise some of the money needed.

The appeal comes from Heidelberg, which sees yet another alternative field of medicine extend its reputation.

The appeal is signed by Albert Landsberger, professor of anatomy at University of Heidelberg, and who is to himself as the president of the Cancer Prevention Society.

Dr. D. Hager, director of the Cyto-GmbH company in Heidelberg, who is primarily involved in the production and marketing of dry-cell preparations, is a co-signatory.

Both signatories are interested among other things in a new cell preparation called *Resistocell*, which contains among other things freeze-dried tissue taken from unborn children during the final quarter of the gestation period.

According to the *Rote Liste* issued by the Federal Association of the Pharma-

ce struck by organs built by antique masters.

What master-builders did ago is now to be emulated by ing volume, echo and technical analysis during intonation.

This used to be solely for the builder to judge, using his hearing, but he can now buy the task by technology.

At the same time builders are incorporating new tone organs, using a concept drawn by Schuke, a number of whose well-known in Germany.

His concept is based on the an "artistic regular relationship" sound phenomena between other.

His yardsticks are immediacy, language, transparency of emotions, differentiation of construction and colour of stops.

Pipes are intoned at full volume ensures immediacy and clarity. They are attached straight wind chest, with neither leads or ducts. Starts and stops can be heard.

On this basis registers with narrow scales and high partials individual stops have been designed to handle the rich trebles in concert music.

Computer calculations and use of teams of physicists are likely to be a wedge between the musician and artisan in organ-building.

That would mean the end of the lectical unity of the work and the organ-builder's personality.

Such trends, with their progress toward technical perfection, will bring about grave changes in the profession.

But they are very much in line with the times, given that even done in scientific teamwork masters of old seem to be a dying breed.

Christa F.

(Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung)

## ■ MEDICINE

## Group pushes 'biological' approach to cancer

chemical industry, this product, which costs DM 141.10 for a three-ampoule packet, serves as an "additional therapy in the treatment of cancer, to activate the body's own anti-tumour resistance and to stimulate the immunising system."

The Society's committee also has as its members one male and one female internist, a further male internist who is known as a specialist for public relations, and a journalist.

On the scientific advisory board are Georges Fülgraff, formerly state secretary in the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs and Health and a former president of the Federal Health Office, where he was responsible for helping the law governing the manufacture and prescription of drugs overcome its first practical problems.

After his experiences with many controversial decisions on safety in the field of drugs, Fülgraff, who had had his initial training in conventional pharmacology, changed his attitudes.

He showed himself to be open-minded towards the pharmaceutical alternative scene made up of herbal therapists, anthroposophists and homeopaths.

Maybe this new move just means carrying on from there.

The advisory board's secretary is radiologist, Karlheinz Renner, from the College of Medicine in Hanover, a man

who can quite fairly be categorised as a supporter of "orthodox medicine".

And his pugnacious colleague, Ernst Krokowski, from Kassel can be similarly categorised. In both West German medical journals and in public, he has repeatedly had some critical things to say about the findings made by conventional cancer therapy.

On the other hand, the name of Germany's most famous radiologist, Dr. Mildred Scheel, is conspicuous in its absence.

The wife of the former Bonn president Walter Scheel prefers to stick to the more conservative methods, even though her cancer aid is certainly not just limited to the application of X-rays.

Also missing is the name of Dr. Veronica Carstens, the wife of President Karl Carstens, a lady who has very broad-minded ideas in the fields of medicine and science. She is convinced for example of the effects of the earth's own rays.

Frau Carstens has primarily dedicated her activities towards the field of multiple sclerosis, which also needed V.I.P. patronage.

The society's new president has emphasised that it does not seek confrontation with the school of "orthodox medicine".

No-one really knows what the latter is anyway, and apart from the fact that outsiders would seem to like nothing more than to be welcomed back into its bosom there's not much to go on in the way of clear criteria for definition.

The society's intention is, in the words of Landsberger, "to extend conventional therapeutic methods (operation, chemotherapy and hormone treatment) by introducing biological methods, to provide an additional aid to persons suffering from cancer, particularly in cases where radiotherapy, chemotherapy or hormone therapy are not or no longer possible."

Landsberger feels that even at this stage many people could be helped by biological methods or preparations.

However, he admits that the surgeon is still essential and is likely to remain so for some time.

Radiation and chemotherapy are, depending on the type of tumour and how far it has spread, "essential complementary or even primary methods".

This is fully accepted by the society, which nevertheless regards "biological preparations and methods" as useful as part of an additional therapy.

The fascination for the Greek *bios* (= life) and the Latin *natura* (= that which has evolved from within itself) is, in today's industrial society, one of the major reasons for commercial success when it comes to dissociating oneself from "artificial", "synthetic" or "chemical" products. Medicine is no exception. On the other hand, it may seem paradoxical that the highly effective cytostatic (= checks cell growth) chemotherapy makes use of Samuel Hahnemann's old homeopathic principle: *similia similibus curentur* (= like must be used to treat like).

Cytostatics used to fight cancer can in some cases lead to cancer themselves; the same applies to X-rays.

The radiation risk can be kept down to a minimum by careful procedure and avoiding unnecessary use of X-rays.

In the case of mammography, for example, there is hardly any risk involved, whereas the benefit of early therapy is considerable.

This was again clearly underlined recently during an international symposium held in Munich on the treatment of the small cancer of the breast.

Excessive and in many cases superfluous follow-up radiotherapy or chemotherapy can often, particularly if the doctor does not master these methods, bring about more damage than benefit.

The body's normal resistance is adversely interfered with.

For the doctors who side with the Society for Biological Cancer Prevention and who often more or less belong to sectarian groups this is a unifying factor.

They are primarily concerned with immunological questions in connection with the body's own resistance against cancer.

Josef Issels, the "cancer doctor from the *Tegernsee*" had his own ideas; he may have helped some but made others feel unsure.

Efforts to develop an immunisation therapy with the so-called BCG (tuberculosis) serum are of the same nature.

The French doctor Georges Mathé used such "immunising therapeutics", the origin of which is surrounded in secrecy, and is claimed to have cured several cancers.

However, due to a lack of exact data this has never been scientifically proven.

Enzymes, extracts from the thymus gland, mistletoe preparations and other plants have also been employed for similar purposes.

The scientific evaluation of the actual or alleged cures effected has up to now always been disputed.

The advocates of the "biological approach" have never really approved of the patient collectives drawn up by clinical pharmacologists on a quantitative and statistical basis and in line with random criteria.

Now, however, Landsberger has announced that there will be "clinical studies", for example on the value of "biological back-up therapy" for radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

The term "controlled" has been omitted in this respect, which may put the clinical pharmacologists off such a venture.

A further project will concentrate on those patients who at the time the operation was carried out showed no signs of secondary growths.

Landsberger on this point: "When the operation is carried out, micrometastases already exists in a high percentage of cases."

"Here, the prophylactic chemotherapy has not brought about the desired success... A prophylaxis should be tried out using certain biological preparations."

What is more, the society has resolved to do something which is already being practised by regional cancer aid societies, treatment centres and study-groups supported by the Cancer Aid Fund: co-operation with family doctors, self-help groups and after-care clinics.

The scientific basis for the "biological methods" is a slender one.

However, as herbal pharmacist Hildebert Wagner, who recently reported on proven effects of immunisation stimulation with the aid of fungus-based substances during the "First General Conference of Pharmaceutical Scientists" in Munich, points out, the approach adopted by such concepts is correct.

The possibilities of immunisation still

Continued on page 14

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During the seventies research into the parent-child relationship began to focus more and more of its attention on the importance of the father in the child's development.

It was discovered that fathers can be very successful "mothers" and that the children develop a close relationship to their father at an early age.

In fact, the behaviour shown by both parents towards the child is characterised by greater similarities than differences.

Again and again it has been confirmed that the behaviour of the father, in its complementarity to that of the mother in certain fields, is irreplaceable for the child's development.

There has been a definite shift in society's image of what a father should be like.

Today, fathers have more opportunity to establish a closer relationship to their children and if the mothers go out to work, which is the case for one in two mothers of children who go to school, they look after the children to a much greater extent than in days gone by.

Not only do they take care of them, but there is increased bodily contact.

Wassilios E. Pfenakis, a doctor, and Renate Niesel and Hans-Rainer Kunze, both qualified psychologists at the Institute for Educational Research on Early Childhood in Munich, decided to carry out a detailed investigation into the role of the father in the child's development.

The father already becomes an important figure during pregnancy and birth, for the more sensitively he reacts to the pregnancy, the easier it is for the mother to adapt herself to the situation.

The father's presence at birth makes it easier for him to get on with the child later on or whether the father who decides to witness the birth himself can be classed as a "good father".

However, it is still not clear whether the father's presence at birth makes it easier for him to get on with the child later on or whether the father who decides to witness the birth himself can be classed as a "good father".

Continued from page 13

mulation for treating cancer should be used in a "complementary and adjuvant (supportive)" way.

However, it's still early days for this particular field. Wagner therefore believes that such research projects should also be encouraged.

On no account, however, should the general impression be created that "all is needed is to live a more healthy life, change food habits and swallow a few herbal extracts to fight or even cure cancer in future."

The circle of scientists, practitioners and laymen who in principle stand behind the aims pursued by the *Gesellschaft für biologische Krebsabwehr* is a most heterogeneous one and it is still not certain to what extent agreement can be reached on which projects ought to be backed.

The politicians in the previous SPD/FDP coalition government were also aware of such "alternative" approaches to this problem.

However, a special work-group dealing with "unconventional methods for fighting cancer" set up as part of a "General Programme for Fighting Cancer", has not had much success in finding projects worth supporting.

A commission set up by the German Cancer Prevention Society is in addition taking a closer look at "cancer medicines of doubtful effectiveness".

## CHILDREN

# Discovery: father is quite a good mother

According to recent estimates, between 60 and 80 per cent of 'first-time' fathers decide to be present at birth.

If given the opportunity, fathers are just as willing and able to care for the newly-born child as are mothers.

A large number of studies on fathers, mothers and their newly-born children, carried out in the hospital during the first few days following the birth, have revealed that fathers behave the same way as mothers towards their children.

In fact, if both parents are present, the fathers devote more attention to the child than mothers.

Mothers certainly did better on one score: they smiled more often.

If left on their own with the child, both mother and father smiled a little less often and did not "question" the child as much as when both parents were together.

It was also observed that the nature and the extent of dissimilarities between motherly and fatherly patterns of behaviour changed after birth.

After three months, fathers were found to smile almost as much as mothers during their stay in the hospital, whereas after three weeks the latter touched the child's arms and legs more often than the fathers, who had done this more often in the clinic.

In the opinion of the scientists, it would appear that the parents learn a great deal from one another through the care, attention and stimulation they both give to their child.

Research findings would suggest that there are indeed greater similarities than differences in the behaviour shown by fathers and mothers towards their children, whether in their respective reactions to the child's screaming or in

the nature and frequency of bodily contact.

This certainly contradicts previous assumptions.

Feeding would still seem to be Mum's job, and mothers pick up the child and hold it in their arms more often than fathers do, even if the child does not explicitly cry out for attention.

Mothers "talk" more to their babies, whereas fathers are more keen on visual stimulation, such as imitating the child's facial expression, for example.

An important difference, which has been confirmed by many studies on children between the ages of eight and thirty months, is the way in which mothers and fathers play with their children, an area in which there would yet again appear to be an outstanding complementarity.

When the father plays with the child, the emphasis is on physical activities, games in which there is plenty of movement and bodily contact.

Mothers use toys a lot more and "playfully" talk to their children.

It is also interesting to note that boys and girls receive their intellectual stimulation from different games.

The intellectual development of the girls seems to be more linked to the language-based and intellectual stimuli from both the mother and the father, whereas the boys receive more intellectual stimuli from the father and are involved in more physical contact when playing with their fathers and mothers.

A further interesting finding is that the boys were more independent in

cases where both parents are in a loving and warm-hearted relationship. In the girls' cases, more is required: they were more in need of mother and father had a warm-hearted and compassionate attitude towards them. The father had demanded more of them at an early age.

The widespread assumption that mother is the first, and indeed the person to whom the small child has also been proved wrong.

Most studies would suggest that children develop a bond to both parents which is shown among other things by the fact that children aged 1 and 21 months protest just as much about being separated from their mothers as from their fathers.

In addition, studies indicate that the basis for the emergence of a relationship is formed much earlier during the second half of the first year of life.

The preference shown by their fathers during the second half of the first year of life is also to be held by the father's mother results, say the scientists, the way the father plays with his children.

Finally, the importance of the father for the child's development is shown by the effects of his absence. Children with the exact nature of the father's absence, such as the threat of a nuclear war, are more likely to be affected by the father's absence.

The most detrimental effect of the father's absence is on the child's mental abilities, are brought about by the father's absence. The father's absence is also linked to the child's mental abilities, are brought about by the father's absence.

This absence is all the more detrimental, the earlier it occurs in the child's life. The larger the child is, the more pronounced are the mental effects.

Renate K. Niesel (Lübeck Nachrichten)

## The pill puts headmasters' careers in jeopardy

The birth-rate slump caused by the increased use of the contraceptive pill in the Federal Republic of Germany will leave many a grammar-school principal without the very basis of his existence: pupils.

Many schools are now making adventurous moves to make sure that their schools are not closed down by the education authorities due to the lack of newcomers.

Some are drumming up support by putting forward educational arguments, others by simply laying on the coffee and cake.

It would be all too easy to dismiss all this with a smile, for after all no-one has any objections to more competition in schools.

And parents are free to choose which grammar school to send their children to: to the one which holds promise of the best standards or the one which has its own private beach on the island of Sylt.

However, the dangers are more deeply-rooted.

These new problems facing grammar schools as a result of the drop in the number of pupils may well cause the kind of damage similar to the changes in the quality of German secondary schools brought about by the educational reforms during the sixties.

Teachers complain more and more about the fact that some of the children

now entering grammar schools are below the standards which would have been their acceptance in such schools years ago.

Along with the drop in the birth-rate, the quantitative educational policies, which led to the final examination in the grammar school and subsequently the right to enter university, were faced by an additional drop in standards due to the lack of pupils.

For a glance by the principal of his own school's capacity utilisation leads to another reduction in standards made on pupils, in an attempt to get through as many pupils as possible up until final examination stage.

And yet, the drop in the birth-rate provides the educationalists with opportunities.

After the many years in which schools received substantial additional money, a stagnation in the number of pupils could lead to a reduction in the standard-related payments in Germany's grammar schools.

Those responsible are called upon to beware of further quality losses, which we just cannot afford if we remain an internationally competitive industrial nation.

Peter P. (Die Welt, 11 May 1983)

## MODERN LIVING

# Bishops: 'nuclear deterrent no guarantee of peace'

by respect of human dignity and of specific freedoms."

Defence was not solely, and not even primarily, a matter of security policy and a military contribution; it called mainly for a constant political, intellectual and moral dispute with the ideological foundations of Marxism-Leninism.

Even so, this defence could not, for the time being, dispense with a military contribution.

Advance concessions must be taken

No state in central Europe could be defended in a nuclear war, agreed the second Berlin conference of East and West German writers.

But there is less agreement on other issues. In fact the meeting has an interesting background of discord.

Six weeks beforehand, the West German organiser, Bernd Engelmann, of Munich, had difficulty in gaining recognition as chairman of the Writers' Association.

He was strongly criticised for the exclusive nature of the first conference, held at an East Berlin hotel in December 1981.

At his association's annual congress he was obliged to practise self-criticism and undertake "to exclude no-one from the peace debate and to set aside personal disputes and controversies."

The second conference, held at the Academy of Arts in West Berlin, provided him with an opportunity of honouring this commitment.

In 1981 he and GDR writer Stephan Hermlin succeeded, on the eve of martial law in Poland, in arranging a peace bid get-together of writers from both German states.

The West was represented by authors such as Günter Grass, Uwe Johnson and Peter Schneider, the East by Hermann Kant, Stefan Heym and Stephan Hermlin.

But it was an exclusive gathering at which, arguably, too much attention was paid to avoiding unpleasant encounters.

Hermann Kant of the GDR Writers' Association did not have to shake hands with Wolf Biermann, and Stephan Hermlin was spared an encounter with another former GDR writer.

On another occasion he had described emigres and expellees from the GDR

into consideration as a means of fostering confidence in international relations, but they must not jeopardise security or legitimate self-interest.

The bishops encourage politicians to make any moves, even the smallest, that might make possible a sensible dialogue in this sector.

To the protest movements they have this to say:

"The internal and external peace of society must not be jeopardised. Democratically legitimated majority deci-

## Writers meet again to discuss war

as being more talented at crime than at writing.

This comment and its initial acceptance by Herr Engelmann triggered the crisis in the West German Writers' Association.

So it was understandable that a number of erstwhile GDR writers who now live in the Federal Republic preferred not to attend the conference despite having been invited.

It was attendance by invitation only again, although this time invitations were sent to ex-GDR writers: Sarah Kirsch and Jürgen Fuchs.

Frau Kirsch was a former member of Herr Kant's executive committee, from which she was expelled. Herr Fuchs was a former convict in Jena, which is fast gaining a reputation as the centre of the peace movement in the GDR.

Both publicly announced that they would not be taking part. Fuchs because, he said, it was not open to all and Kirsch because she felt a peace debate in such exclusive surroundings was like an absurd talk show.

Their reasons were understandable but unwarranted as it turned out. The only absurdity at the West Berlin gathering was the assurances given by a number of Soviet delegates that there were no difficulties placed in the way of the peace movement in their country.

Participants from the GDR, even officials such as Hermann Kant, told a different tale. Stephan Hermlin was by no means alone in clearly expressing re-

sions that can lay claim to right and justice deserve to be respected by Christians in particular.

"Groups and campaigners who feel political decisions are wrong must constantly consider whether the methods of their objections or protests credibly testify to their Christian desire for peace."

"We appeal to them to choose methods of which they can fairly claim that they will remain non-violent, are committed to the basic values of Basic Law and will not lead to breaches of the law." A relevant point made elsewhere in the paper is that:

"Whether someone really wants to serve the cause of peace or has entirely different aims in mind can be seen from whether he speaks the language of peace or stirs up hatred and contempt for mankind, pursuing egoistic interests."

Rudolf Bauer

(Rheinische Post, 28 April 1983)

gret about measures against peace demonstrators in Jena.

Hermann Kant surprised the conference by approving a draft resolution by Günter Grass and Heinrich Albertz that included the declaration of principle that in a nuclear conflict no Central European state could be defended.

This agreement marks a new dimension in the East-West peace debate inasmuch as it clearly contradicts GDR Defence Minister Heinz Hoffmann, who quoted Jürgen Fuchs in declining to attend.

The GDR, General Hoffmann said, did not share the view held even by progressive members of the peace movement, that in the nuclear age a just war was no longer possible.

It did not feel that a nuclear missile war was no longer a continuation of politics and the class struggle but merely a nuclear inferno and the end of the world.

No-one at the Berlin conference spoke in defence of this claim despite personal declarations on behalf of General Hoffmann as a former member of the International Brigades in the Spanish civil war.

If this basis for further talks between German writers is maintained there will have been progress that could have repercussions.

Some have already been agreed. The next meeting is to be held near where Pershing 2 missiles are scheduled to be stationed in the Federal Republic.

At this gathering the writers will be abandoning pretensions to exclusivity in a bid to make their voices heard in the wider context of the West German peace movement.

Hannes Schwenger

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 26 April 1983)

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